(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons enrolled under this scheme from the new areas and the number out of them who have so far been provided/likely to be provided employment during the current year; and

(c) the budget allocation for the State under this scheme for the year 2007-2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Six additional districts of Karnataka *i.e.* Bellary, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Belgaum, Shimoga and Kodagu have been covered under second phase of NREGA *w.e.f.* 1.4.2007. A statement containing the requisite details is given (*See* below).

(c) NREGA is demand driven and not an allocation based programme. During 2007-08 Rs. 14772.671akhs have so far been released to Karnataka.

Statement

Additional districts of Karnataka covered under second phase of NREGA

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Number of persons enrolled/registered	No. of Households provided / likely to be provided employment
1.	Bellary	NR	NR
2.	Belgaum	151411	NR
3.	Chikmagalur	NR	NR
4.	Hassan	37914	NR
5.	Kodagu	50434	NR
6.	Shimoga	82369	NR

NR means not reported.

Starving of weavers due to stiff competition from China

1822. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that so many weavers in Uttar Pradesh are starving to death due to stiff competition from China;

(b) if so, whether Government will assure these weavers, work of minimum days so that they earn at least minimum wages for their families;

(c) the steps Government have taken to provide access to national and international market to these weavers;

(d) whether Government have done study to find out the impact of cheap silk imported from China on weaving industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and remedial measures, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that no such report of death due to starvation has been received.

(b) Handloom weaving is predominantly a household activity. As per the handloom census 1995-96, 2.44 lakh out of 2.54 lakh handloom units are working in the Weavers household. Almost entire activities in the handloom sector are being done by the family members themselves and no labourers are engaged from outside. Therefore, the general thrust of the handloom sector schemes, implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is to provide support for product diversification, design and skill upgradation and market access to the handloom weavers to augment their livelihood and increase their earnings.

(c) Government of India is providing different types of marketing channels under Marketing Promotion Programme in domestic market in the form of handloom Expos, specialized handloom expos, District Level Events, craft melas, urban haats and Handloom Havelies for the sale of handloom products produced by the weavers. In addition, Indian Silk Export Promotion Council: (ISEPC); Mumbai is also helping the weavers and exporters through export promotion activities for better export earnings through value addition.

Besides, following steps have been: taken/are being taken to promote exports of handlooms from the country:–

(i) Handloom Export Promotion Council has been conducting various awareness Seminars/Workshops regularly in weaving centers of the country in which subjects such as technological development on handloom weaving for productivity and product diversification, export documentation and procedures, common dyeing defect in handloom fabrics and its remedy, concept of handloom design and colour combination etc. are dealt with.

(ii) Participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

(iii) Handloom Export Scheme has provided assistance to the handloom agencies in developing diversified range of handloom products and international marketing thereof.

(iv) In order to establish a distinct identity, genuineness and quality of handloom products, handloom Mark Scheme has been introduced on 28.06.2006.

(d) and (e) During 2001-02 there was dumping of cheap Chinese raw silk in the Indian domestic markets and this affected the raw silk prices in the domestic market. The Directorate General of Anti dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India conducted a detailed investigation on the dumping of cheap silk from China. After investigations, DGAD came out with findings indicating dumping, and it severely affecting the local domestic industry. Taking the above into consideration and based on the representations received from Silk Reelers Association, Silk Weavers Association and the concerned State Departments; the Central Silk Board (CSB) took up the case of imposing anti

dumping duty on raw silk and silk fabric imported from China with the Directorate General of Anti dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

On the basis of the final findings, the DGAD, Ministry of Commerce Government of India; has imposed anti-dumping duty on Chinese raw silk and on Chinese silk fabric. The anti-dumping duty on Mulberry raw silk is in place from July, 2003 and on silk fabric from November, 2006. The imposition of anti-dumping duty on the raw silk and silk fabric imported from China has helped in stabilizing the domestic sericulture and silk industry.

Restraining textile imports from China

1823. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile exports from China to India are restrained till 2008 to help the newly set up units;

(b) if so, whether the Mimstry is taking any steps to promote new ventures till the above period;

(c) if so, whether extension of tenure of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme include above measures;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry, subsequent to the letter from Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Ministry of Finance for the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) A safeguard clause exists in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) frame work, that till 2008, if the Chinese imports in WTO member country(s) hurt the textiles industry of the importing country, that country may impose quantitative restrictions on Chinese imports. So far no such restrictions on Chinese textiles imports have been imposed in India. However, the Government of India, has imposed anti-dumping duty on Chinese raw silk and Chinese silk fabric, *w.e.f.* July 2003 and November, 2006, respectively, to protect the domestic sericulture and silk industry. Various steps have been taken by the Government for the growth of textiles industry, which include:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textiles sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the Small Scale Industry (SSI) sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 fo facilitate the modernisation and up gradation of the sector.

(iv) A new Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks has been formulated by merging the Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports and the Textiles